I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to foster Hebrew language and exegetical skills necessary for the interpretation of the Old Testament. This will be achieved through translation and exegetical exercises in Hebrew narrative. Lectures will also introduce the theological motifs of conquest texts and provide the historical context in which these events took place. The course covers the following topics:

- Exegetical steps. How to interpret Hebrew narrative texts.
- Historical context. How conquest texts fit within the environment of the Late Bronze Age/Iron I and early Iron II periods.
- Theological context. How Yahweh’s character is revealed in these texts and how this formative period in Israelite history relates to the rest of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Practical context. Developing skills to relate OT Hebrew narratives to practical ministry

Additional notes:

- This syllabus may be subject to change upon notice
- Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on CAMS. It is the student’s responsibility to check CAMS for announcements, handouts, etc.

INTERNET USAGE

Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.
II. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**
- *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.

III. **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**
- *NIV Archaeological Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2005)

IV. **HEBREW COMPETENCY EXAM**

All 600-Level students are required to take a Hebrew competency exam. This exam will be on the first day of class. No particular preparation is required, except to review your Hebrew (from first-year instruction and 600-level exegesis). It is necessary to pass this exam to continue in the course.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Mid-Term and Final Tests** (50%):
- **Part I**: Translation and parsing (with exegetical comments) of a set text covered in class (no lexicon allowed).
- **Part II**: Identification and short essay questions based on the required readings (including the glossary) and materials covered in class.

**Hebrew Exegesis Paper Outline** (50% of course grade): This paper (approx. 30 pages) must be based on the Hebrew text. A choice of passages from the corpus of Joshua/Judges and specific guidelines will be made available in class. Students are expected to abide by the academic policies as found in the Student Handbook (re: plagiarism, late assignments, etc.). For style consult *The SBL Handbook of Style*.

**DUE DATE:** July 10, 4pm

**Readings:** In addition to specified readings (see schedule below), the expectation is that students will interact (not simply read) relevant sections of the assigned commentaries. There will be additional articles that will be posted on CAMS as required readings.
Glossary of Exegetical Terms: A list of terms relevant to exegetical study (to be learned for tests from Murphy)

Class Participation: Students need to come to class prepared to discuss (= read, parse, comment on exegetical steps) assigned texts. Note: Lack of preparation and attendance will affect course grade.

Hebrew competency for the course:
Hebrew competency must be demonstrated both in terms of the language and exegetical methodology in order to pass the course, regardless of grades on the two tests and exegesis paper. Thus, if a student fails to demonstrate Hebrew and/or exegesis competence in any aspect of the course, he/she will not be able to receive a passing final grade.

VI. Preparation Before First Class

➢ Review First-Year Hebrew
➢ Read Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1, 2 Samuel in translation

VII. Class Schedule

Monday June 17 “Introduction”
• Overview of Hebrew Exegesis
• Steps of Exegesis: The Big Picture
• Hebrew competency exam
• Begin reading Gundry

Tuesday June 18 “The Promised Land”
• Gen 15
• Steps of Exegesis: Textual Criticism
• “Arad” in Dict of the OT: Historical Books
• Continue Gundry

Wednesday June 19 “First Fruit of Conquest”
• Num 21
• Steps of Exegesis: Translation
• OTC, pp. 17-24; 97-132
• Continue Gundry

Thursday June 20 “Deuteronomical Imperative”
• Josh 1
• Steps of Exegesis: Grammar and Syntax
• OTC, pp. 25-86
• Ch. Van der Merwe, *et al* (on Reserve): pages on the verbal system
• Continue Gundry

NOTE: deadline to choose a passage is today!

**Friday June 21 “Salvation”**
• Josh 2 (cf. Introduction and ch 1 in Hess)
• Steps of Exegesis: Lexical data
• OTC pp. 87-96

**Monday June 24 “Judgment”**
• Mid-Term Test (90 minutes)
• Josh 6 (cf. Hess); Josh 11:16-20 (cf. Hess).
• Steps of Exegesis: Structure
• “The Conquest of Canaan,” “The Walls of Jericho,” “Jericho and the Date of the Conquest” in *ASB*

**Tuesday June 25 “Accommodation”**
• Judg 2 (cf. Block)
• Steps of Exegesis: OT context
• OTC pp. 167-192
• Finish Gundry

**Wednesday June 26 “Shifting Identities”**
• Judg 4 (cf. Block)
• Steps of Exegesis: Cultural Environment
• Read Judg 5 in translation several times
• Read Block on Judges 5

**Thursday June 27 “Competing land claims”**
• Judg 11 (cf. Block)
• Steps of Exegesis: NT context

**Friday June 28 “Conquest of Zion”**
• Final Text (90 minutes)
• 2 Sam 5:6-9 (this text is not included in the test)
• Steps of Exegesis: Biblical-Theological Context
• Steps of Exegesis: Contextualization and Application

**Exegesis Paper due at 4pm Friday July 12**
VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


**Hebrew Narrative**


**IX. JOSHUA/JUDGES SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Dever, W.G. *Who were the Israelites and Where did they Come from?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.


----.  *Kingdom Prologue.* 1993.


